



Cheesegrater to Tank with Avid Pro Tools upgrade

Executive Summary

Dale Warren is a professional sound engineer working on television and film projects. He was looking to upgrade his audio mixing suite after getting a new Mac Pro and needed the upgrade to happen quickly and smoothly with minimal downtime to interrupt the projects he was currently working on.

Project Objectives

- It had to be a "turnkey" installation to minimise studio downtime.
- New computer and hardware had to be pre-built with all software and applications in place.
- Hardware tested and bench tested for performance.



Results

One of the main reasons for the upgrade, other than having access to some of the new Avid and third party plugins and the tougher, faster system, was the offline bounce functionality. Over a season of television audio post, this can save Dale up 130 hours. Without this time saving, he wouldn't be getting through the projects and hitting deadlines on time.

Dale commented "Amber Technology have been a huge help with advice and equipment over the years, and especially with this latest upgrade".



Project Challenges

The most important aspect of the upgrade to the HDX system was a smooth changeover, as Dale was right in the middle of two very big, long term projects at the same time.

The first project was sound designing and mixing Transformers: Rescue Bots and the second a new animation called Kuu Kuu Harijuku. Dale was cast recording the second season of Kuu Kuu Harijuku during the upgrade, so there was absolutely no room for any problems to occur.

Product Solution

Upgrade Avid Pro Tools TDM HD3 to an HDX with a new Max Pro and Sonnet chassis with local storage onboard.

It was time to rev up to 64 bit with Pro Tools 12HD. The HDX card gives peak performance and near-zero latency to handle extremely large and complex productions. The Sonnet chassis is built like a tank and the removable media drives are a must after coming from an old Mac Pro "Cheesegrater".

